

### **ABSTRACT**

Disclosed are methods for screening that may be used to identify an inhibitor of HCV p7 protein. The methods may include incorporating an HCV p7 protein into a membrane to create an HCV p7-containing membrane that has an increased permeability relative to a membrane that does not contain HCV p7 protein. The HCV p7 protein may be contacted with a test compound, and the permeability of this HCV p7-containing membrane then may be compared to an HCV p7-containing membrane in which the HCV p7 protein has not been contacted with the test compound. The inhibitor of HCV p7 protein may be identified by observing a decrease in the permeability of the HCV p7-containing membrane in which the HCV p7 protein has been contacted with the test compound.